

58. As underwriters of the Note Offering, the Underwriter Defendants had a duty to investors to conduct an adequate due diligence with respect to the representations in the Offering Memorandum. The Underwriter Defendants were reckless or negligent in performing due diligence on the Note Offering by failing, among other things, to determine the legitimacy of the multiple related party transactions at the Company or to ascertain the true value of the assets, properties and business of Sino-Forest, resulting in the issuance of a materially false and misleading Offering Memorandum.

59. The Offering Document was signed by the Underwriter Defendants and contained both Sino-Forest's misleading financial statements and the misleading narrative description of the Company and its future prospects, including the portrayal of the Company as a fast-growing, legitimate business which followed good corporate governance practices with positive future prospects for growth. In particular, the Offering Memorandum cited the Company's competitive strengths including, among others, the following: (i) "Leading commercial forest plantation operator in the PRC with established track record;" (ii) "First mover advantage with strong track record of obtaining and developing commercial tree plantations and ability to leverage our industry foresight;" (iii) "Future growth supported by long-term master agreements at agreed capped prices;" (iv) "Strong research and development capability, with extensive forestry management expertise in the PRC;" and (v) "Diversified revenue and asset base."

60. As described above, the statements in the Offering Document were materially false and misleading because, contrary to the financial results reported in its financial statements, and contrary to the description of Company with major strengths as a forest plantation operator, the Company was engaged in fraudulent practices, resulting in the overstatement of assets, revenues and earnings, and misleading statements about its contractual relationships with certain

parties in the PRC related to the purchase of timber acreage. Thus, at the time of the Note Offering, investors were misled because the Company's actual financial condition and future prospects were much worse than these public statements indicated.

**F. Misrepresentations and Omissions Relating to Code of Business Conduct**

61. At all material times, Sino-Forest maintained it had in place a Code of Business Conduct (the "Code"), which governed its employees, officers and directors. The full text of the code was posted on the Company's Internet site and available to investors. It stated that the members of senior management "are expected to lead according to high standards of ethical conduct, in both words and actions." The Code further required that Sino-Forest representatives act in the best interests of shareholders, that corporate opportunities not be used for personal gain, that insiders not trade in Sino-Forest securities based on undisclosed knowledge stemming from their position or employment with Sino-Forest, that the Company's books and records be honest and accurate, that conflicts of interest be avoided, and that any violations or suspected violations of the Code, and any concerns regarding accounting, financial statement disclosure, internal accounting or disclosure controls or auditing matters, be reported.

62. Nonetheless, as explained in this Complaint, the publicly disclosed Code contained materially false and misleading statements because, as described herein, Sino-Forest's top executives did not actually follow the provisions of the Code.

**V. INITIAL DISCLOSURE OF FRAUD AT SINO-FOREST**

63. A report published on June 2, 2011 by Muddy Waters (the "Report"), a research firm that specializes in analyzing Chinese companies traded in the United States and Canada, reported that Sino-Forest and its financial statements were permeated by fraud.

64. The Report detailed the extensive investigative effort and resources that Muddy Waters had undertaken to discover the truth about the Company:

In order to conduct our research, we utilized a team of 10 persons who dedicated most to all of their time over two months to analyzing [Sino-Forest]. The team included professionals who focus on China from the disciplines of accounting, law, finance, and manufacturing. Our team read over 10,000 pages of documents in Chinese pertaining to the company. We deployed professional investigators to five cities. We retained four law firms as outside counsel to assist with our analysis.

65. The Muddy Waters report concluded that the Company was extensively involved in business practices that were “blatantly illegal” and that the Company’s financial statements and other reports to investors were permeated by fraud. According to the Report, Sino-Forest’s remarkably consistent growth during the Class Period was illusory – simply the result of “a Ponzi scheme,” rather than a real expansion in Sino-Forest’s business. According to Muddy Waters, the Company used its supposed growth and profitability to raise money from private lenders and the financial markets. This money, in turn, was used to bolster an appearance of further growth and increased profitability, which in turn opened the door to additional funding from private lenders and the capital markets. According to the Report, however, the capital raised by Sino-Forest was not used to expand the Company’s business, but was instead largely siphoned off by insiders in undisclosed related party transactions.

66. At the heart of the misconduct at Sino-Forest, according to Muddy Waters, is the Company’s use of AIs. The Report noted that AIs apparently act as both buyers and sellers in Sino-Forest transactions. For example, in one case uncovered by Muddy Waters, an AI purchased logs from Sino-Forest and delivered them to a chipping facility. Once the logs reached the facility they were sold back to Sino-Forest. Sino-Forest then turned around and sold the logs back to the AI who then proceeded to turn the logs into wood chips. The purpose of

these transactions, which were pointless from a business perspective, was to create the appearance of additional revenue for Sino-Forest.

67. The Report also disclosed that Sino-Forest had vastly overstated its forestry assets. In China's Yunnan Province alone the overstatement is potentially hundreds of millions of dollars. As noted above, in March 2007 Sino-Forest publicly announced that it had entered into an agreement to purchase up to 200,000 hectares of trees in Lincang City in Yunnan for \$700 million to \$1.4 billion, but a review of relevant government documents by Muddy Waters indicated that the actual size of this purchase was about 40,000 hectares.

68. Furthermore, although Sino-Forest generally does not identify the companies from which it purchases forestry assets, Muddy Waters was able to identify many of these companies by means that included careful review of government records. Muddy Waters visited many of these entities, finding that they "generally operated out of apartments while purportedly each doing annual revenue in the hundreds of millions from TRE [Sino-Forest] alone." This discovery supports Muddy Waters' conclusion that a substantial portion of the Company's reported purchases of forestry assets were greatly exaggerated or never occurred at all.

69. The Report also noted that Sino-Forest had engaged in substantial transactions with undisclosed related parties, transactions which are in violation of the applicable accounting rules and which require disclosure of related party transactions. An example is Jiangxi Zhonggan Industrial Development Company Ltd., which was incorporated just months before Sino-Forest entered into an approximately \$700 million contract with it in June 2009. The legal representative and President of this company is Sino-Forest Executive Vice President, Lam Hong Chiu. According to Muddy Waters, Zhonggan's 2008 and 2009 audit report shows "numerous large transactions between the Company, TRE, and other parties." Separately, Muddy Waters

identified Huaihua Yuda Wood Company Ltd., as “an undisclosed TRE subsidiary that has been receiving massive amounts of money from TRE’s subsidiaries.”

70. On publication of the Muddy Waters Report, the price of Sino-Forest’s securities dropped dramatically. On June 2, 2011, the Company’s shares, which had ended trading at \$18.64 on June 1, ended trading on the OTC market at \$7.33 and then fell further, to \$5.41 on June 3, a price drop of 71% over two days on a substantially larger volume than normal. The prices of the Company’s debt securities also declined significantly.

## **VI. SINO-FOREST’S DENIALS AND FURTHER MISLEADING STATEMENTS**

71. Soon after publication of the Muddy Waters Report, Defendants began an organized campaign to further mislead investors by falsely claiming that there was no misconduct at the Company. These misleading statements (¶¶ 72-76) continued to prop up the prices of Sino-Forest securities until trading was halted on August 26, 2011.

72. In a June 3, 2011 press release, the Company asserted that “[t]he Board of Directors and management of Sino-Forest wish to state clearly that there is no material change in its business or inaccuracy contained in its corporate reports and filings that needs to be brought to the attention of the market. Further we recommend shareholders take extreme caution in responding to the Muddy Waters report.” The release also quoted Chan as saying the following: “let me say clearly that the allegations contained in this report [by Muddy Waters] are inaccurate and unfounded.” The release quoted Horsley as saying “I am confident that the [Sino-Forest Board of Directors’] independent committee’s examination will find these allegations to be demonstrably wrong.”

73. In a June 6, 2011 press release, Sino-Forest further stated that “The Company believes Muddy Waters’ report to be inaccurate, spurious and defamatory.” The press release

quoted Chan as saying the following: “I stand by our audited financial statements, including the revenue and assets shown therein. All material related party transactions are appropriately disclosed in our financial statements. We do business with the parties identified in the report at arm’s length. Those parties are not related or connected to the Company or any of its management.”

74. During a June 14 conference call with investors, Chan suggested that the Muddy Waters allegations were entirely inaccurate, accusing Muddy Waters of a “pattern of sloppy diligence and gross inaccuracy.”

75. Moreover, even after the release of the Muddy Waters Report, the Sino-Forest Defendants continued their practice of making false and misleading statements about Sino-Forest’s financial condition and future prospects. On both June 14, 2011 and August 15, 2011, Sino-Forest filed, respectively, its Interim Financial Statements and its MD&A covering the first quarter. These filings (which investors were later told they should not rely upon) contained material misrepresentations and omissions similar to those made in filings earlier in the Class Period: they falsely portrayed the Company as a fast-growing, legitimate business which followed good corporate governance practices with positive future prospects for growth and they materially overstated the Company’s revenue, earnings and assets.

76. The August 15, 2011 MD&A also made the following false statement: “[u]nder the master agreement entered in March 2007 to acquire 200,000 hectares of plantation trees over a 10-year period in Yunnan, the Company has actually acquired 230,200 hectares of plantation trees for \$1,193,459,000 as at March 31, 2011.” In fact, as the Muddy Waters Report had disclosed, the Company had vastly overstated the value of its holdings in Yunnan under the March 2007 agreement.

## **VII. CONFIRMATION OF THE FRAUD**

77. After publication of the Muddy Waters Report, additional investigations and disclosures evidence that numerous statements by Sino-Forest during the Class Period were materially false and misleading or omitted material information.

### **A. The Globe and Mail Investigation**

78. A June 18, 2011 article in the highly respected Globe and Mail, Canada's largest-circulation national newspaper, confirmed that Sino-Forest had provided materially inaccurate information about the Company's holdings in Yunnan, which comprised a substantial portion of the Company's supposed forestry assets. The article stated, in part:

The Globe's investigation raises particularly hard questions about a key agreement in March, 2007, that Sino-Forest says gave it the right to buy timber rights for up to 200,000 hectares of forest in Yunnan over a 10-year period for between \$700-million (U.S.) and \$1.4-billion. The trees were to be bought through a series of agreements with an entity called Gengma Dai and Wa Tribes Autonomous Region Forestry Co. Ltd., also known as Gengma Forestry.

The company says it has fulfilled virtually all of the agreement with Gengma and now owns more than 200,000 hectares in Yunnan.

But officials with Gengma Forestry, including the chairman, dispute the company's account of the deal, telling *The Globe and Mail* that the actual numbers are much smaller.

79. *The Globe and Mail* article reported that in an interview with officials involved in the Sino-Forest transactions indicated that it had acquired less than 14,000 hectares. The article went on to say:

Mr. Xie's account corroborates the assertions of senior forestry officials in the province. Speaking on condition of anonymity, these officials challenged the company's statements that it controls more than 200,000 hectares of Yunnan trees, and said they are now investigating.

80. *The Globe and Mail* further reported:

In a written response to questions from *The Globe*, Sino-Forest said it stands by its public statements regarding its Yunnan holdings. The company said it has purchased about 13,300 hectares of 'forestry assets and leased land' directly from Gengma Forestry, and another 180,000 hectares of 'forestry assets only' from other sellers, using Gengma as a purchasing agent.

**'The agreement has not been yet fulfilled as we have not completed the purchase of 200,000 hectares,' the company said.<sup>2</sup>**

**That statement from Sino-Forest appears to contradict its own publicly filed financial reports. In its first quarter 2011 report, the company said that 'under the master agreement entered in March 2007 to acquire 200,000 hectares of plantation trees over a 10-year period in Yunnan, the Company has actually acquired 230,200 hectares of plantation trees for \$1,193,459,000 as at March 31, 2011.'**

The company's 2010 annual information form filed with regulators earlier this year said that as of December 31, 2010, Sino-Forest had 'acquired approximately 190,300 hectares of plantation trees for \$925.9-million (U.S.) under the terms of the master agreement.'

**The Globe's investigation of the company's dealings and holdings in Yunnan points to inconsistencies in the company's accounting of its timber rights and raises broader questions about its business practices.**

81. In addition, it was reported that:

As of the end of 2010, the company claimed control of about 800,000 hectares of trees in nine Chinese provinces plus New Zealand. Its operation in Yunnan province, in addition to being its largest, is also the one for which it has made additional disclosures recently in an attempt to defuse the allegations made in the Muddy Waters report.

So far, however, it has disclosed purchase agreements as well as forest and woodland rights certificates for about 7,000 hectares of forest in Yunnan. **The company has not disclosed significant**

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<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, all emphasis in quotations is added.



**documentation regarding its forestry holdings in other provinces.**

To find Gengma Forestry, Sino-Forest's local partner in the so-called 'Yunnan master agreement' – the 2007 deal said to be worth as much as \$1.4-billion – you have to duck down an alleyway behind the drugstore on the main street of this nondescript trading city, then up a dusty cement staircase.

On the landing is the litter-strewn office with an open door and a window protected by metal bars. Despite signing a deal with Sino-Forest that should guarantee a windfall, the company has clearly fallen on hard times. 'Our relations with [Sino-Forest] were not totally good. They talked about a lot of things, but in the end it was hard to get money from them,' said Zhang Ling, Gengma Forestry's office manager.

82. Statements of local officials in Yunnan province also contradict the reported size of Sino-Forest's holdings:

Senior forestry officials in the province challenged the company's assertion that it controls about 200,000 hectares of forest in the region. Speaking on condition they not be identified, they said their records showed Sino-Forest manages far less than that and said the Yunnan Forestry Bureau would begin an investigation aimed at determining the company's true holdings.

83. Not only have the size of the holdings been questioned, but so has the value as reported in *The Globe and Mail*:

In addition to the questions about Sino-Forest's disclosures on the size of its holdings, forestry officials, as well as local timber brokers who spoke to *The Globe* raised questions regarding the value Sino-Forest attributes to its Yunnan assets.

'It's very hard for anyone to say what the value of their property is,' said one forestry official, adding that forested land in Yunnan needed to be evaluated by a special body jointly appointed by the Forestry Bureau and the Ministry of Finance. Sino-Forest has not requested such an official valuation of its land, he said. '(The valuation) must have two chops (official seals) and two forestry resource evaluation experts and two licensed evaluators... Even I can't just go there and give it a value.'

84. Subsequently, in early September 2011, *The Globe and Mail* reported that “A Globe investigation, based on interviews with people associated with Sino-Forest and an examination of legal and regulatory documents in Hong Kong and mainland China, has uncovered a pattern of questionable deals and disclosures from the company that date back to its earliest days.”

**B. Investigations and Regulatory Actions**

85. On August 26, 2011 the Ontario Stock Commission issued a “Temporary Order” that said the following: “Sino-Forest and certain of its officers and directors including Chan appear to be engaging or participating in acts, practices or a course of conduct related to its securities which it and/or they know or reasonably ought to know perpetuate a fraud on any person or company contrary to section 126.1 of the [Ontario Securities] Act and contrary to the public interest.”

86. The Commission halted trading in Sino-Forest’s stock on the Toronto Stock Exchange effective August 26, 2011 and demanded that several of Sino-Forest’s executives resign. Trading was halted in the U.S. on the OTC Bulletin Board at 5:30 p.m. on August 26, 2011.

87. On August 28, *The Globe and Mail* reported that CEO Chan had resigned. The newspaper also reported that “[t]hree Sino-Forest vice-presidents – Alfred Hung, George Ho and Simon Yeung – have been placed on administrative leave. Senior vice-president Albert Ip has been relieved of most of his duties but remains with the Company to assist the internal probe.” The newspaper also explained why Chan’s departure had occurred: “According to people familiar with the case, Mr. Chan was confronted by company officials in Hong Kong last week after a review of e-mail accounts outside the company’s network revealed questionable

transactions and money transfers.” Despite this evidence of misconduct, Chan remains with the Company, having been granted the title “Founding Chairman Emeritus.”

88. In late August Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services announced that it was withdrawing its ratings on the Company’s debt because “[r]ecent developments point towards a higher likelihood that allegations of fraud at the company will be substantiated.”

89. As a result of the suspension in the trading of Sino-Forest’s common stock and disclosure of the suspected fraud, the shares are now virtually worthless and the value of its Debt Securities, including the 2017 Notes have declined substantially. On November 11, 2011, it was announced that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had commenced a criminal investigation.

90. Subsequently, on January 10, 2012, Sino-Forest announced that investors should no longer rely upon its historical financial statements and related audit reports. The Company stated that there was “no assurance” that it would be able to release third quarter financial results or audited financial statements for its 2011 fiscal year. The Company further disclosed in the January 10, 2012 announcement that it was still unable to explain or resolve outstanding issues, relating to its financial results and business relationships, including matters raised by documents identified by its auditor E&Y and the OSC.

#### **VIII. MOTIVATION FOR FRAUD**

91. The Sino-Forest Defendants had ample motive to commit fraud: the exaggerated revenue, earnings and assets allowed the Company to continue to raise substantial funds from lenders and investors, inflated the Company’s stock price and provided a personal financial windfall to the Individual Defendants who sold highly inflated stock to unsuspecting investors.

92. In addition to the billions of dollars raised by Sino-Forest during the Class Period (described above), Company insiders also benefited directly by the inflated value of Sino-

Forest's stock because of their substantial stock holdings and because part of their compensation was in the form of stock options. Documents filed by the Company revealed that the Individual Defendants have sold over \$44 million of Company stock since 2006.

**Defendants' Sales Of Shares During Class Period**

<b>Defendant</b>	<b>Net Shares Sold</b>	<b>Value \$Can</b>	<b>Value \$U.S. (on 11/15/11 \$Can 1 =\$US 0.98494)</b>
Chan	182,000.00	\$3,003,200.20	\$2,957,970
Horsley	531,431.00	\$11,157,962.93	\$10,989,900
Poon	3,037,900	\$30,054,387.32	\$29,601,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,751,331</b>	<b>\$44,215,550.45</b>	<b>\$43,549,670</b>

**IX. CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

93. Plaintiffs bring this action on their own behalf and, pursuant to Article 9 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules ("CPLR"), as a class action on behalf of themselves and all persons or entities who purchased (i) Sino-Forest's common stock during the Class Period on the OTC market who were damaged thereby; and (ii) all persons or entities who, during the Class Period, purchased Debt Securities issued by Sino-Forest other than in Canada and who were damaged thereby. Excluded from the Class are Defendants, the officers and directors of Sino-Forest during any portion of the Class Period, members of the immediate families of the foregoing persons and the legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns of such persons and any entity in which any Defendant has or had a controlling interest. The Class specifically excludes any investor who purchased Sino-Forest securities on the Toronto Stock Exchange or in Canada.

94. The claims of Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have a common origin and share a common basis. The claims of all Class Members originate from the same improper conduct and arise from securities purchases entered into on the basis of the same materially

misleading statements and omissions by Defendants during the Class Period. If brought and prosecuted individually, each Class Member would necessarily be required to prove their respective claims upon the same facts, upon the same legal theories and would be seeking the same or similar relief, resulting in duplication and waste of judicial resources.

95. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Although all Class Members cannot be identified without discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are many thousands of class members. Sino-Forest has over 246 million shares outstanding which actively traded on the OTC market (as well as in Canada on the Toronto Stock Exchange) and there are approximately \$1.8 billion in Debt Securities outstanding including, approximately, \$600 million in 2017 Notes.

96. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of the Class. Among the questions of law and fact common to the Class are:

- a. Whether Defendants made materially false and misleading statements or omissions;
- b. Whether Defendants engaged in any acts that operated as a fraud or deceit, or negligently misrepresented the Company's financial condition to the Class;
- c. Whether Defendants breached their fiduciary duties to Plaintiffs and the class or were negligent in the performance of their duties;
- d. Whether Defendants' acts proximately caused injury to the Class or irreparably harmed the Class, and if so, the appropriate relief to which the Class is entitled; and,
- e. Whether Defendants' acts constitute violations of law for which the Class is entitled to recover damages or other relief.

97. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would also create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class which would establish incompatible rights and standards of conduct for the parties involved in this case. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would also create a risk of adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class which would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other members of the Class or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.

98. Plaintiffs have engaged counsel experienced in complex class litigation and will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Class. Plaintiffs' interests are co-extensive with and not antagonistic to those of the absent members of the Class.

99. The members of the Class cannot reasonably be expected to litigate this matter individually. Whether litigated individually or as a class, the causes of action asserted in this Complaint involve complex issues of law and will likely require extensive and costly factual discovery, especially if this case proceeds to trial. The costs of successfully prosecuting such litigation will likely be beyond the resources of most members of the Class.

## **X. APPLICATION OF THE FRAUD ON THE MARKET PRESUMPTION**

100. During the Class Period, Sino-Forest was a high profile Company which regularly provided purportedly accurate information to investors about the Company's operations. The Company was followed by numerous securities analysts. The securities at issue, Sino-Forest common stock and debt securities, were actively traded on efficient markets and publicly disclosed information about the Company was incorporated in the price of these securities within a reasonable amount of time.

**A. Common Stock**

101. During the Class Period, Sino-Forest common stock was traded on the OTC market in the United States, which is an open, well-developed and efficient market. Sino-Forest common stock was traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange, an open, well developed and efficient market. There was a substantial volume of trading in both the United States and Canada and the price of the shares traded in the United States was affected in the same way as the price of shares traded in Canada.

102. The OTC market has no fixed location but investors throughout the United States, including in New York County, New York, can purchase OTC securities through registered brokers. The principal regulator of the OTC market is the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority which has its principal offices in New York, NY and Washington, DC.

**B. 2017 Notes and Other Debt Securities**

103. According to the Company, the 2017 Notes “offering was made on a private placement basis in Canada, the United States and internationally pursuant to available exemptions, through a syndicate of initial purchasers.” The indenture agreement which governs the 2017 Notes provided that the notes are governed by New York law.

104. The 2017 Notes were initially purchased by the Underwriter Defendants. In the purchase agreement between the Underwriter Defendants and Sino-Forest, Banc of America Securities LLC listed its address as One Bryant Park, New York, NY 10036 and Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC listed its address as Eleven Madison Avenue New York, NY 10010. During the Class Period and after their issuance there was an efficient market for the 2017 Notes.

105. The 2017 Notes could only be legally sold to non-U.S. persons and to U.S. persons who were qualified institutional buyers. There is an open and well developed market for

such securities which are issued by large and well known issuers such as Sino-Forest and, specifically, there was an active and well-developed market for the 2017 Notes and Sino-Forest's other Debt Securities during the Class Period. Class Members were able to purchase 2017 Notes and other Debt Securities in the OTC market.

106. Accordingly, Class Members who purchased Sino-Forest common stock or 2017 Notes, and other Debt Securities in the secondary market are entitled to a presumption of reliance on the accuracy of the prices paid.

## **XI. CAUSES OF ACTION**

### **COUNT ONE** **AGAINST SINO-FOREST AND THE INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS FOR FRAUD**

107. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of the allegations set forth in above. This claim is asserted against Sino-Forest and the Individual Defendants for common law fraud.

108. As set forth herein, Sino-Forest and the Individual Defendants knowingly or recklessly engaged and participated in a continuous course and scheme of fraudulent conduct to disseminate materially false information about Sino-Forest's financial condition or failed to disclose material information with the purpose of inflating the prices of Sino-Forest's common stock, the 2017 Notes and Sino-Forest's other debt securities. As intended by the Sino-Forest Defendants, Plaintiffs and Class Members reasonably relied on these false and misleading statements and failures to disclose and suffered substantial damages as a result.

109. As a direct and proximate result of Sino-Forest and the Individual Defendants' fraud, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered economic losses in an amount to be determined at trial. Sino-Forest and the Individual Defendants are jointly and severally liable to the Class for common law fraud.



**COUNT TWO**  
**AGAINST SINO-FOREST AND THE INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS FOR CIVIL**  
**CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD**

110. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of the allegations set above. This claim is asserted against Sino-Forest and the Individual Defendants for civil conspiracy to commit fraud.

111. In furtherance of a scheme to defraud investors, the Sino-Forest Defendants corruptly agreed to combine their respective skills, expertise, resources, and reputations, thereby causing injury to Plaintiffs and the Class.

112. As set forth in detail above, one or more of the conspirators made false representations of material facts, with scienter, and Plaintiffs' and Class Members justifiably relied upon these misrepresentations and were injured as a result.

113. As a direct and proximate consequence of the foregoing, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered economic losses in an amount to be determined at trial. Because Sino-Forest and the Individual Defendants conspired amongst themselves and with others to carry out this fraudulent scheme, the Sino-Forest Defendants are jointly and severally liable both for their own knowledge and conduct and for the knowledge and conduct of their co-conspirators in furtherance of the fraud.

**COUNT THREE**  
**AGAINST SINO-FOREST AND THE INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS FOR AIDING AND**  
**ABETTING FRAUD**

114. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of the allegations set forth above. This claim is asserted against Sino-Forest and the Individual Defendants for aiding and abetting common law fraud. The Sino-Forest Defendants were aware of the fraudulent scheme that is the subject of this Complaint and each of these Defendants provided substantial assistance to the perpetrators of this scheme.

115. As a direct and proximate result of the Sino-Forest Defendants' aiding and abetting of the fraud, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered economic losses in an amount to be determined at trial. Sino-Forest and the Individual Defendants are jointly and severally liable to the Class for aiding and abetting common law fraud.

**COUNT FOUR**  
**AGAINST SINO-FOREST FOR UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

116. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of the allegations set forth above. This claim is asserted against Sino-Forest for unjust enrichment.

117. In connection with the fraudulent scheme set out in this Complaint Defendant Sino-Forest received payment for the sale of the 2017 Notes. Defendant Sino-Forest would not have been able to sell the 2017 Notes or would only have been able to sell these notes at a lower price had the true facts about Sino-Forest's business and financial condition been known. Consequently, Sino-Forest unjustly received money from the purchasers of its securities and it would be unjust to allow Sino-Forest to keep this improperly earned money and should be required to repay it.

**COUNT FIVE**  
**AGAINST E&Y FOR BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY**

118. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of the allegations set forth above. This claim is asserted against the E&Y Defendants for breach of fiduciary duties. Plaintiffs specifically disclaim any allegation of fraud or fraudulent intent of E&Y with respect to this count.

119. The E&Y Defendants had a fiduciary relationship to Plaintiffs and Class Members in that the E&Y Defendants owed Plaintiffs and Class Members a duty of ordinary and reasonable care and good faith which arose from the relationships between the E&Y Defendants

and the Plaintiffs and Class Members who were the intended users of the financial statements certified by the E&Y Defendants. The E&Y Defendants breached these fiduciary duties by certifying materially false and misleading financial statements, having known of the material misstatements or omissions, or having failed to do reasonable due diligence which would have discovered the false and misleading nature of these financial statements.

120. The E&Y Defendants breached their fiduciary duties to Plaintiffs by failing to perform their audits of Sino-Forest's financial statements in accordance with Canadian GAAS by, *inter alia*, failing to obtain competent evidentiary material in support of the Company's representations in its financial statements and E&Y's audit opinion.

121. As a direct and proximate result of the E&Y Defendants' breach of fiduciary duty, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered economic losses in an amount to be determined according to proof at trial. The E&Y Defendants are jointly and severally liable to the Class for breach of fiduciary duty.

**COUNT SIX**  
**AGAINST E&Y FOR NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION**

122. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of the allegations set forth above. This claim is asserted against the E&Y Defendants for negligent misrepresentation. Plaintiffs specifically exclude any allegations of fraud or fraudulent intent of E&Y with respect to this count.

123. The E&Y Defendants had a special relationship of trust and confidence with Plaintiffs and Class Members because of their status as outside auditors of Sino-Forest that gave rise to a duty to exercise due care in the performance of their duties. These Defendants knew or were reckless in not knowing that Plaintiffs and Class Members were relying on them to exercise reasonable care in the performance of their duties.

124. As set forth herein, the E&Y Defendants negligently made false and misleading statements that inflated the price of Sino-Forest's securities, including by negligently failing to disclose material information they were obligated to disclose. The E&Y defendants negligently misrepresented to Plaintiffs and Class Members that they had performed audits of Sino-Forest's financial Statements in accordance with Canadian GAAS and that the Company's financial statement were properly presented in accordance with Canadian GAAP.

125. Plaintiffs and Class Members reasonably relied on these false and misleading statements and failures to disclose and suffered substantial damages as a result. The E&Y Defendants were at least negligent in making such statements, including because they failed to conduct appropriate due diligence before making such statements by, *inter alia*, failing to obtain competent evidentiary material in support of the Company's representations in its financial statements and E&Y audit opinion.

126. As a direct and proximate result of the E&Y Defendants' negligent misrepresentations, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered economic losses in an amount to be determined according to proof at trial. The E&Y Defendants are jointly and severally liable to the Class for negligent misrepresentation.

**COUNT SEVEN**  
**AGAINST E&Y FOR GROSS NEGLIGENCE**

127. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of the allegations set forth above. This claim is asserted against the E&Y Defendants for gross negligence. Plaintiffs specifically exclude any allegations of fraud or fraudulent intent of E&Y with respect to this count.

128. The E&Y Defendants had a special relationship with Plaintiffs and Class Members because of their status as outside auditors of Sino-Forest, a relationship that gave rise

to a duty to exercise due care in the performance of the E&Y Defendants' duties. The E&Y Defendants knew or were reckless in not knowing that Class Members were relying on them to exercise reasonable diligence in the performance of their duties. The E&Y Defendants were grossly negligent in the performance of their duties, including by failing to conduct adequate due diligence. The E&Y Defendants breached their fiduciary duties to Plaintiffs by failing to perform their audits of Sino-Forest's financial statements in accordance with Canadian GAAS by, *inter alia*, failing to obtain competent evidentiary material in support of the Company's representations in its financial statements and E&Y audit opinion.

129. As a direct and proximate result of the E&Y Defendants' gross negligence, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered economic losses in an amount to be determined by proof at trial. The E&Y Defendants are jointly and severally liable to the Class for gross negligence.

#### **COUNT EIGHT** **AGAINST E&Y FOR NEGLIGENCE**

130. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each of the allegations set forth above. This claim is asserted against the E & Y Defendants for negligence. Plaintiffs specifically exclude any allegations of fraud or fraudulent intent of E&Y with respect to this count.

131. The E&Y Defendants had a special relationship with Class Members because of their status as independent auditor of Sino-Forest, a relationship that gave rise to a duty to exercise due care in the performance of the E&Y Defendants' duties. The E&Y Defendants knew or were reckless in not knowing that Plaintiffs and Class Members were relying on the E&Y Defendants to exercise reasonable diligence in the performance of their duties. The E&Y Defendants were negligent in the performance of their duties; specifically the E&Y Defendants breached their duties to Plaintiffs by failing to perform their audits of Sino-Forest's financial

statements in accordance with Canadian GAAS, including by failing to conduct adequate due diligence by, *inter alia*, failing to obtain competent evidentiary material in support of the Company's representations in its financial statements and E&Y audit opinion.

132. As a direct and proximate result of the E&Y Defendants' negligence, Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered economic losses in an amount to be determined by proof at trial. The E&Y Defendants are jointly and severally liable to the Class for negligence.

**COUNT NINE**  
**AGAINST THE UNDERWRITER DEFENDANTS FOR NEGLIGENT**  
**MISREPRESENTATION**

133. Plaintiff IMF repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above. This claim is asserted against the Underwriter Defendants for negligent misrepresentation on behalf of all Class Members who purchased the 2017 Notes on the Offering. Plaintiff IMF specifically excludes any allegations of fraud or fraudulent intent of Underwriter Defendants with respect to this count.

134. The Underwriter Defendants had a special relationship with IMF and those Class Members who purchased the 2017 Notes from the Underwriter Defendants because of their status as underwriters, which gave rise to a duty to exercise due care in the performance of their duties. The Underwriter Defendants knew or were reckless in not knowing that each Class Member who purchased the 2017 Notes was relying on them to exercise reasonable care in the performance of their duties.

135. As set forth herein, the Underwriter Defendants negligently made false and misleading statements that inflated the price of the 2017 Notes, including by negligently failing to disclose material information they were obligated to disclose. Plaintiff IMF and Class Members reasonably relied on these false and misleading statements and failures to disclose and

suffered substantial damages as a result. The Underwriter Defendants were at least negligent in making such statements, including because they failed to conduct appropriate due diligence before making such statements.

136. As a direct and proximate result of the Underwriter Defendants' negligent misrepresentation, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have suffered economic losses in an amount to be determined by proof at trial. The Underwriter Defendants are jointly and severally liable to the Class for negligent misrepresentation.

**COUNT TEN**  
**AGAINST THE UNDERWRITER DEFENDANTS FOR GROSS NEGLIGENCE**

137. Plaintiff IMF repeats and realleges each of the allegations set above. This claim is asserted against the Underwriter Defendants for negligent misrepresentation on behalf of all Class Members who purchased the 2017 Notes on the Offering. Plaintiffs specifically exclude any allegations of fraud or fraudulent intent of the Underwriter Defendants with respect to this count.

138. The Underwriter Defendants had a special relationship with Plaintiff IMF and Class Members because of their status as underwriters that gave rise to a duty to exercise due care in the performance of their duties. These Defendants knew or were reckless in not knowing that Class Members were relying on them to exercise reasonable diligence in the performance of their duties. These Defendants were grossly negligent in the performance of their duties, including by failing to conduct adequate due diligence.

139. As a direct and proximate result of the Underwriter Defendants' gross negligence, Plaintiff IMF and the Class have suffered economic losses in an amount to be determined by

proof at trial. The Underwriter Defendants are jointly and severally liable to Plaintiff IMF and the Class for gross negligence.

**COUNT ELEVEN**  
**AGAINST THE UNDERWRITER DEFENDANTS FOR NEGLIGENCE**

140. Plaintiff IMF repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above. This claim is asserted against the Underwriter Defendants for negligence on behalf of Plaintiff IMF and all Class Members who purchased the 2017 Notes on the Offering. Plaintiff specifically excludes any allegations of fraud or fraudulent intent of the Underwriter Defendants with respect to this count.

141. The Underwriter Defendants had a special relationship with Class Members who purchased the 2017 Notes from them because of their status as underwriters that gave rise to a duty to exercise due care in the performance of their duties. The Underwriter Defendants knew or were reckless in not knowing that Plaintiff IMF and Class Members were relying on them to exercise reasonable diligence in the performance of their duties. The Underwriter Defendants were negligent in the performance of their duties, including by failing to conduct due diligence.

142. As a direct and proximate result of the Underwriter Defendants' negligence, Plaintiff IMF and the Class have suffered economic losses in an amount to be determined at trial. The Underwriter Defendants are jointly and severally liable to Plaintiff IMF and the Class for negligence.

**XII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF AND JURY DEMAND**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs and the Class hereby demands a trial by jury, and seek a judgment:




- A. Awarding Plaintiffs and the Class all compensatory damages they suffered, including lost profits and consequential and incidental damages, as a result of the wrongful conduct of the Defendants, in an amount to be determined at trial;
- B. Awarding Plaintiffs and the Class damages arising from Defendants' unjust enrichment;
- C. Awarding Plaintiffs and the Class punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- D. Awarding Plaintiffs and the Class pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- E. Awarding Plaintiffs and the Class their costs, expert fees, expenses and attorneys' fees incurred in connection with this action to the maximum extent permitted by law;
- F. Awarding Plaintiffs and the Class such other and further relief as the Court finds just and proper.

Dated: January 27, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN MILSTEIN SELLERS &  
TOLL PLLC



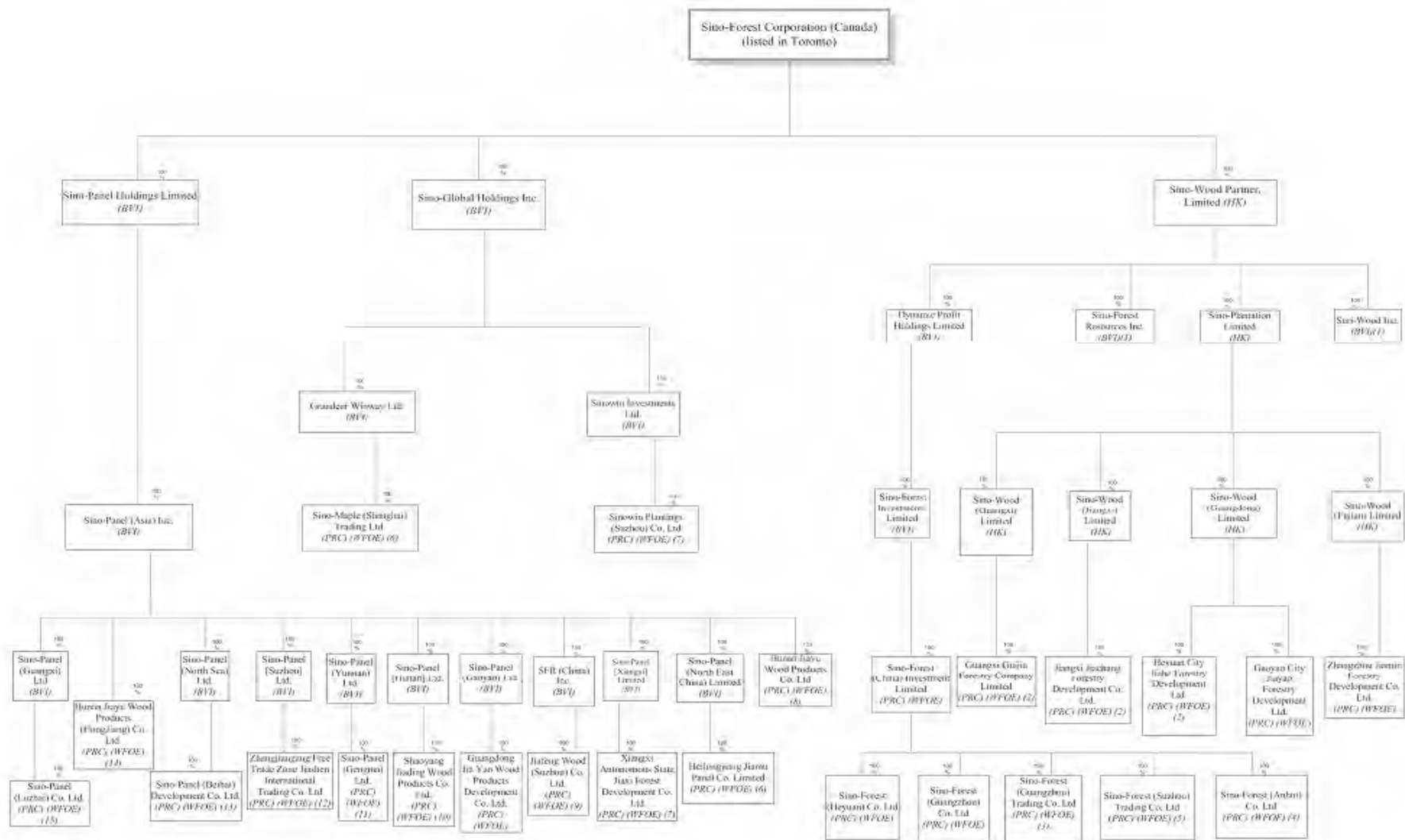
Richard S. Speirs  
Kenneth M. Rehns  
88 Pine Street 14th Floor  
New York, NY 10005  
Phone: (212) 838-7797  
Facsimile: (212) 838-7745

-and-

Steven J. Toll  
Matthew B. Kaplan  
1100 New York, Ave., N.W.  
West Tower, Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Phone: (202) 408-4600  
Facsimile: (202) 408-4699

*Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Proposed  
Class*

## Exhibit A (Sino-Forest Organizational Chart)



**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK**

DAVID LEAPARD and IMF FINANCE SA on their  
own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ALLEN T.Y. CHAN, DAVID J. HORSLEY, KAI KIT  
POON, BANC OF AMERICA SECURITIES LLC,  
CREDIT SUISSE SECURITIES (USA) LLC, SINO-  
FOREST CORPORATION, ERNST & YOUNG  
GLOBAL LIMITED, and ERNST & YOUNG LLP,

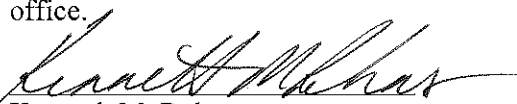
Defendants.

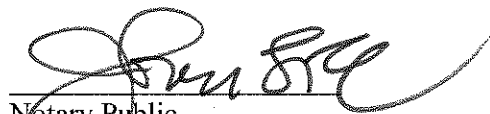
INDEX NO.

**VERIFICATION**

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
CITY OF NEW YORK )  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK )

Kenneth M. Rehns, being duly sworn, states that he is one of the attorneys for Plaintiffs in this action and that the foregoing complaint is true to his own knowledge, except as to matters therein stated on information and belief and as to those matters he believes to be true; that the ground of his belief as to all matters not stated upon his knowledge are upon review of publicly available securities filings, media and newspaper articles and information contained on the Internet; and that the reason why the verification is not made by Plaintiffs David Leapard and IMF Finance SA is that these Plaintiffs are not in the county where Plaintiff's attorney has his office.

  
Kenneth M. Rehns

  
Notary Public

Sworn before me this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012

JESSE J. LEE  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 01LE6167858  
Qualified in New York County  
Commission Expires June 4, 2015



SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

David Leopard, et al.

Plaintiff(s)

v.

Allen T.Y. Chan, et al.

Defendant(s)

Case No.: 650258/2012

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I, Mary M. Bonville, a Private Process Server, being duly sworn, depose and say, I have been duly authorized to make service of the documents listed in the above entitled case, I am over the age of eighteen years and am not a party to or otherwise interested in this matter.

DOCUMENT(S) SERVED: Summons, Notice of Commencement of Action Subject to Mandatory Electronic Filing, Verified Class Action Complaint and Exhibit A

SERVE TO: Credit Suisse Securites (USA) LLC c/o Corporation Service Compay, Registered Agent

SERVICE ADDRESS: 80 State Street, Albany, New York 12207

DATE SERVED: February 08, 2012 TIME SERVED: 2:30 PM

PERSON SERVED: Steve Pastore, Authorized Agent, authorized to accept

Described herein:

Gender: Male Race/Skin: White Hair: Grey Age: 50 Height: 5'9" Weight: 180

I do solemnly declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the information set forth herein is correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

*Mary M. Bonville*

Mary M. Bonville  
CAPITOL PROCESS SERVICES, INC.  
1827 18th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009-5526  
(202) 667-0050

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public, on this 8th day of February, 2012.

ID: 12-070916

Client Reference: 75670001

*Ruth A. Dennehey*  
RUTH A. DENNEHEY

Notary Public-State of New York  
Albany County No. 4729775

Commission Expires 11-30-2014

FILED: NEW YORK COUNTY CLERK 02/28/2012

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 3

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 02/28/2012

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

David Leapard, et al.

Plaintiff(s)

Case No.: 650258/2012

v.

Allen T.Y. Chan, et al.

Defendant(s)

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I, Robert DeLacy, Jr., a Private Process Server, being duly sworn, depose and say, I have been duly authorized to make service of the documents listed in the above entitled case, I am over the age of eighteen years and am not a party to or otherwise interested in this matter.

DOCUMENT(S) SERVED: Summons, Notice of Commencement of Action Subject to Mandatory Electronic Filing, Verified Class Action Complaint and Exhibit A

SERVE TO: Banc of America Securities LLC c/o The Corporation Trust Company, Registered Agent

SERVICE ADDRESS: Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801


DATE SERVED: February 08, 2012 TIME SERVED: 1:55 PM

PERSON SERVED: Scott LaScala, Operations Manager, authorized to accept

Described herein:

Gender: Male Race/Skin: White Hair: Brown Age: 35 Height: 6'0" Weight: 230

I do solemnly declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the information set forth herein is correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

  
Robert DeLacy, Jr.  
CAPITOL PROCESS SERVICES, INC.  
1827 18th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009-5526  
(202) 667-0050

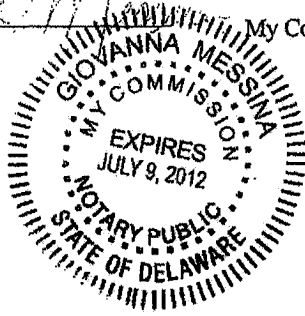
Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public, on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012.

ID: 12-070917

Client Reference: 75670001

*Giovanna Messina*  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:



**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK**

David Leopard, et al.

Plaintiff(s)

Case No.: 650258/2012

v.

Allen T.Y. Chan, et al.

Defendant(s)

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE**

I, Dominic DellaPorte, a Private Process Server, being duly sworn, depose and say, I have been duly authorized to make service of the documents listed in the above entitled case, I am over the age of eighteen years and am not a party to or otherwise interested in this matter.

DOCUMENT(S) SERVED: Summons, Notice of Commencement of Action Subject to Mandatory Electronic Filing, Verified Class Action Complaint and Exhibit A

SERVE TO: Sino-Forest Corporation c/o Law Debenture Corporate Services Inc., Agent

SERVICE ADDRESS: 400 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017


DATE SERVED: February 08, 2012 TIME SERVED: 2:05 PM

PERSON SERVED: James Heaney, Managing Director, authorized to accept

Described herein:


Gender: Male Race/Skin: White Hair: Black Age: 56 Height: 5'9" Weight: 180

I do solemnly declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the information set forth herein is correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

  
Dominic DellaPorte  
CAPITOL PROCESS SERVICES, INC.  
1827 18th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009-5526  
(202) 667-0050

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public, on this 9 day of February, 2012.

ID: 12-070893

  
EVAN COHAN  
NOTARY PUBLIC & ATTORNEY AT LAW  
NO. 02C04998577  
QUALIFIED IN ROCKLAND COUNTY  
CERTIFICATE FILED IN NEW YORK COUNTY  
COMMISSION EXPIRES JUNE 29, 2014

Client Reference: 75670001



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

EVAN COHAN  
NOTARY PUBLIC & ATTORNEY AT LAW  
NO. 02CD4998577  
QUALIFIED IN ROCKLAND COUNTY  
CERTIFICATE FILED IN NEW YORK COUNTY  
COMMISSION EXPIRES JUNE 29, 2014